Case 2:18-cv-03880-PD Document 1 Filed 09/07/18 Page 1 of 12

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FO	RM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non Profit Corporation,				DEFENDANTS CEDAR QUARTERMASTER, LLC, a Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company,					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff UNION (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			-	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Dessen, Moses & Willow Grove, PA	Address, and Telephone Numbe Rossitto, 600 Easton 19090; (215) 658-140			Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	AL PARTIES			
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)			rf def	Incorporated or Pr		PTF 3 4	dant) DEF
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	I FO	PRFEITURE/PENALTY		here for: Nature			
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non Profit Corporation,

Plaintiff,

Case No.:

CEDAR QUARTERMASTER, LLC, a Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company,

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COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation, on its behalf and on behalf of all other mobility-impaired individuals similarly-situated, (sometimes referred to as "Plaintiff"), hereby sue the Defendant, CEDAR QUARTERMASTER, LLC, a Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company, (herein sometimes referred to as "Defendant"), for Injunctive Relief, and attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. ("ADA").

- 1. Plaintiff, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey and maintains its principal office at 1002 Central Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974-1030, in the County of Union.
- The Quartermaster Plaza, is located at 2210 West Oregon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA
 19145 in the County of Philadelphia.
- 3. Venue is properly located in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania because venue lies in the judicial district of the property situs. The Defendant's property is located in and does business within this judicial district.

- 4. Pursuant to 28 USC § 1331 and 28 USC § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendants' violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. See, also, 28 USC § 2201 and § 2202.
- DENNIS MAURER, is a New Jersey resident, is sui juris, and qualifies as an individual with disabilities as defined by the ADA. Mr. Maurer has multiple sclerosis and is mobility impaired, and uses a wheelchair for mobility. Mr. Maurer is also a member of the Plaintiff organization, THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., discussed below in paragraph 6.
- 6. Plaintiff THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., is a non-profit New Jersey corporation. Members of this organization include individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA, and are representative of a cross-section of the disabilities to be protected from discrimination by the ADA. The purpose of this organization is to represent the interest of its members by assuring places of public accommodation are accessible to and usable by the disabled and that its members are not discriminated against because of their disabilities. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. and its members have suffered and will continue to suffer direct and indirect injury as a result of the Defendant's discrimination until the Defendant is compelled to comply with the requirements of the ADA. One or more of its members has suffered an injury that would allow it to bring suit in its own right. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. has also been discriminated against because of its association with its disabled members and their claims.

- 7. Mr. Maurer has been to the subject property numerous times. The barriers to access as set forth herein have endangered his safety. He plans to return to the subject property in the near future. Mr. Maurer has been a resident of South Jersey his entire life, and regularly travels to Philadelphia to see friends, to eat, to shop and go to shows, concerts and sporting events, and to go to the Turf Club. In conjunction with his activities in Philadelphia, he frequently goes to the South Philly area to shop and eat. He enjoys famous restaurants in the area, including Pat's & Geno's cheesesteaks. He particularly enjoys the local markets in the South Philadelphia area. Mr. Maurer is an avid horseman, and is a retired former thoroughbred trainer in the state of New Jersey. He trained horses at Philadelphia Park in the 80's and 90's.
- 8. Defendant owns, leases, leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104. Defendant is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that the Defendant owns, operates, leases or leases to is known as Cedar Quartermaster, LLC, and is located at 2210 West Oregon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145.
- 9. THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC. and DENNIS MAURER have a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to the property as described but not necessarily limited to the allegations in paragraph 10 of this Amended Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that they will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by the Defendant. DENNIS MAURER desires to visit

Quartermaster Plaza not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the property but to assure himself that the property is in compliance with the ADA so that he and others similarly-situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.

- 10. The Defendant has discriminated against the individual Plaintiff and members of the corporate Plaintiff organization by denying them access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the buildings, as prohibited by 42 USC § 12182 et seq.
- 11. The Defendant has discriminated, and are continuing to discriminate, against the Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing to, inter alia, have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of the Oregon Market has shown that violations exist. These violations which DENNIS MAURER personally encountered or observed, include, but are not limited to:

Parking and Exterior Accessible Route

- a) Parking spaces throughout Quartermaster Plaza are not maintained; contain abrupt changes of level greater than ¼ inch, slopes beyond 2.0%s within parking spaces and lack compliant accessible routes from accessible parking, violating Sections 402 and 502 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. These conditions during numerous visits caused Mr. Maurer to park further away from accessible parking to ensure he could deal with proper elements.
- b) Curb ramps provided to access stores at Quartermaster Plaza are unsafe for wheelchair users and are not provided in some areas of the center. The curb ramps contain excessive slopes, abrupt changes of level and lack level landings, violating Sections 402 and 406 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Abrupt changes of level and severe slopes caused Mr. Maurer to be extremely cautious while using curb ramps to avoid injury. These conditions are unsafe for Mr. Maurer when he accesses the curb ramps.

- c) The exterior accessible route from parking spaces at Quartermaster Plaza fails to provide a safe accessible route to ramps or curb ramps, violating Section 402 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Quartermaster Plaza lacks a direct accessible route through islands and striping is not provided. Mr. Maurer was forced to travel in the traffic area of the center to get to the curb ramp.
- d) Quartermaster Plaza fails to provide a safe accessible route to the adjacent bus stop, street or sidewalk, violating Section 206.2.1 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. The lack of an accessible route prevents the option of public transportation for Mr. Maurer.
- e) Quartermaster Plaza fails to provide a continuous accessible route throughout the Shopping Center, violating Section 402 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was unable to travel freely and safely to shop due to the lack of maneuvering space and accessible curb ramps.

Access to Goods and Services

- f) Payment counters in Petsmart at Quartermaster Plaza are mounted beyond the reach of Mr. Maurer, violating Sections 308 and 904 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- g) Entering tenants is impeded by abrupt changes of level at the base and slopes beyond limits, violating Section 404 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Abrupt changes of level can cause damage to Mr. Maurer's wheelchair.
- h) The interior accessible route at Staples and Petsmart was impeded by goods, Violating Section 402 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer on multiple visits was unable to shop in certain areas due to a lack of maneuvering space.

Restrooms

- i) Restrooms at Quartermaster Plaza including Petsmart and Staples reported to be unsafe for use by the plaintiff. Inspection revealed Mr. Maurer was unable to use the restrooms safely due to a lack of accessibility. Including, inaccessible water closets which lack proper controls and wheelchair maneuvering space violating Section 601 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- j) Restrooms at Petsmart and Staples provide dispensers beyond reach of Mr. Maurer, violating Section 308 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- k) Lavatories at Staples lack knee clearance and accessibility preventing Mr. Maurer from freely accessing the lavatory, violating Section 606 the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- Petsmart provides restrooms that contain improper centerlines for the water closets and flush controls mounted on the wall side, violating Section 604 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Mr. Maurer was unable to access flush controls while in the restrooms due to improper location.

m) Using restrooms doors at Petsmart and Staples is impeded by improper signage and a lack of maneuvering clearance, violating Section 404 of the 2010 Accessibility Standards. Stored goods and maneuvering space impede Mr. Maurer from easily accessing doors.

Maintenance

- n) The accessible features of the facility are not maintained, creating barriers to access for the Plaintiff, as set forth herein, in violation of 28 CFR 36.211.
- 12. All of the foregoing cited violations are violations of both the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG) and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, as adopted by the Department of Justice.
- 13. The discriminatory violations described in paragraph 10 are not an exclusive list of the Defendants' ADA violations. Plaintiffs require the inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. The individual Plaintiff, the members of the Plaintiff group, and all other individuals similarly-situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendants' buildings and its facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendants because of the Defendants' ADA violations, as set forth above. The individual Plaintiff, the members of the Plaintiff group and all others similarly-situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- 14. Defendants have discriminated against the individual and corporate Plaintiffs by denying them access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of 42 USC § 12181 et seq. and 28 CFR. 36.302 et seq. Furthermore, the Defendants continue to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly-situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.
- 15. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Considering the balance of hardships between the Plaintiff and Defendant, a remedy in equity is warranted. Furthermore, the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. Plaintiffs have retained the undersigned counsel and are entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendants pursuant to 42 USC § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
- 16. Defendants are required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled, when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that has existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR 36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendants' place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendants are required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that

the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, 28 CFR 36.402; and finally, if the Defendants' facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then the Defendants' facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.

- 17. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiffs or waived by the Defendants.
- 18. Pursuant to 42 USC § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to alter the Quartermaster Plaza to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiffs and all other persons with disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendants cure its violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that the Defendants at the commencement of the subject lawsuit are in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq.
- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendants including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require

the Defendants to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- c. An award of attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 USC § 12205.
- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Date: August 5, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Dessen, Esquire, PA Bar No. 17627

DESSEN, MOSES & ROSSITTO

Co-Counsel for Plaintiffs

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Email: jpf@fullerfuller.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

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Case 2:18-cv-03880-PD Document 1 Filed 09/07/18 Page 11 of 12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Addres	Address of Plaintiff: The Independence Project, Inc., a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation					
Addres	Address of Defendant: Cedar Quartermaster, LLC, a Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company					
Place o	of Accident, Incide	ent or Transaction:	Quarterr	naster Plaza,	, Philadelphia,	, PA
RELAT	TED CASE, IF ANY					
Case Nu	umber:	Judge:			Date Terminated:	
		ted when Yes is answered to any of				
		property included in an earlier numb action in this court?	ered suit pending o	or within one year	Yes	No X
		the same issue of fact or grow out of year previously terminated action in		tion as a prior suit	Yes	No
3. Doe nun	es this case involve mbered case pendin	the validity or infringement of a parg or within one year previously term	tent already in suit ninated action of th	or any earlier nis court?	Yes	No X
	this case a second or se filed by the same	r successive habeas corpus, social se individual?	ecurity appeal, or p	To se civil rights	Yes	No 🔀
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. DATE: 9(5) 19						
CIVIL: ((Place a √ in one cate	gory only)				
<i>A</i> .	Federal Question C	Cases:	В.	Diversity Jurisdiction	Cases:	
	Indemnity Contract FELA Jones Act-Persona Antitrust Patent Labor-Manageme: Civil Rights Habeas Corpus Securities Act(s) C Social Security Re All other Federal (Please specify):	ent Relations Cases eview Cases Question Cases	Contracts	 Airplane Person Assault, Defama Marine Persona Motor Vehicle I 	nation al Injury Personal Injury Injury (Please specify): Lity Asbestos sity Cases	
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION						
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)						
I,, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:						
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:						
X	Relief other than r	monetary damages is sought.	1 -	1965		
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION:

NO.

THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT, INC., a New :

Jersey Non Profit Corporation,

CEDAR QUARTERMASTER, LLC, a

Pennsylvania Limited Liability Company,

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215-496-2902	215-658-0747	ddessen@dms-lawyer.com				
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(f) Standard Management B Ca	ases that do not fall into an	y one of the other tracks	(X)			
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(d) Asbestos B Cases involving exposure to asbestos.	claims for personal injury o	or property damage from	()			
(c) Arbitration B Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.()						
(b) Social Security B Cases rec and Human Services denyi	questing review of a decisioing plaintiff Social Security I	•	()			
(a) Habeas Corpus B Cases br	ought under 28 U.S.C. †224	11 through '2255.	()			
SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOW	WING CASE MANAGEMEN	IT TRACKS:				
In accordance with the Civil Just plaintiff shall complete a case I of filing the complaint and sen the reverse side of this form.) regarding said designation, the court and serve on the plainti form specifying the track to w	Management Track Designave a copy on all defendants. In the event that a defendate at defendant shall, with its fire and all other parties, a care	ition Form in all civil cases at the . (See ' 1:03 of the plan set for ant does not agree with the pla st appearance, submit to the cla ase management track design	e time th on aintiff erk of ation			